

I support HB 391 for the following reasons:

1. Parents know what is best for their own children. We must not usurp the rights of parents to help their children make healthy decisions. The argument that some parents will kill or beat their child if they find out they are pregnant is the same argument that some men will beat the woman they marry. Of course it happens, but it is not the norm, and parents who love and want the best for their children should not be excluded because of the anomalies that exist. Parents know what is best for their own children.
2. Parental consent is required before a child can have their asthma inhaler or Tylenol at school. Some schools will not put sunscreen on a child before parental consent. A recent article in the medical journal Lancet lists complications of first trimester abortions to include cervical tear, uterine perforation, incomplete abortion, uterine re-evacuation, and pelvic inflammatory disease. These are traumatic and potentially life altering adverse events that a minor needs the guidance of a parent to explain, understand and make as part of her decision.
3. The frontal cortex of the adolescent brain is not fully developed until approximately the age of 25 as published in numerous scientific journals including the NIMH, Scientific American, and Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. This part of the brain controls impulsive behaviors and is used in reasoning and decision making. Minors are simply not wired to make such serious and risk laden decisions as abortion.
4. My practice is filled with women who made the decision to have an abortion when they were in their teens and early 20's. I have only had one woman tell me that she does not regret her abortion. The rest without reservation say that abortion negatively changed their lives forever, that their decisions were made under pressure and without all the information, and that they regret their abortion. The only fear of a parent that I have heard was that of disappointing their parents, not of physical or emotional abuse. Most parents love their children and can help them come to terms with pregnancy, love them through it, and become loving grandparents or guides in the adoption process.
5. Finally, abortion keeps the secret in shame. Once a young woman has an abortion, she is told "it was your choice" and brushed off by the same people who lured her into the procedure. It is the secret weapon of the abortion industry. Women don't as a rule talk publicly about the devastating effects their abortions have on them because of the guilt and shame associated with it. So, you will hear from children that are exploited by Planned Parenthood who don't even have the ability to properly discern such a serious subject. Please keep their parents in the loop of this life changing decision. At least then, they will have someone who loves them to turn to when they realize what they have done.

Thank you for your consideration and please support HB 391.

MARYBETH ADAMS  
203 W. MADISON ST E-2  
BELGRADE, MT 59714  
406-579-2796